(b) As per information available, the Act came into force from the dates mentioned against each :

1. Assam	since	27 November, 1990
2. Nagaland	since	7 April, 1995
3. Manipur	since	28 September, 1970
4. Arunachal Pradesh	since	17, September, 1991
5. Punjab	since	15 October, 1983
6. Chandigarh UT	since	15 October, 1983
7. Jammu & Kashmir	since	5 July, 1990

(c) to (e). Continuance of the Act is considered necessary to contain the militancy and secessionist activities in these States. The situation is kept under constant watch and review for determining and continuation of the said provision. The ground situation does not warrant withdrawal of the powers under the Act at this point of time.

[English]

Eco Development Authority

3126. SHRI SUKH RAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of considerable soil erosion in the North Western Himalayas on account of indiscriminate felling of forests, the Government propose to constitute Eco Development Authority for Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh hills so as to ensure that a concrete policy is prepared and effective steps are taken to prevent soil erosion which has been effecting lives and properties of people living in plain areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be onstituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). No such proposal to onstitute Eco Development Authority for Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh hills is nder consideration of the Government.

Procurement of Milch Cattle

3127. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy for procuring improved breed of milch cattle like Cows, Buffaloes, Goats taking into consideration acute shortage of milk and milk products in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is assisting the States and Union Territories to increase the productivity of cattle/buffaloes/goats by making available superior germ plasm.

The broad policies are as under:

(1) Progressive genetic improvement of cattle, buffaloes and goats breeds by selective breeding in their home tract and upgrading local cattle/buffaloes/goats in other areas.

(2) Cross-breeding of non-descript cattle/goats with exotic dairy breeds for introducing superior genes for higher milk production.

[Translation]

Discontinuation of the Hatia-Chandigarh Express

3128. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for discontinuation of the Hatia-Chandigarh Express;

(b) whether the Government propose to reintroduce the Hatia-Chandigarh Express;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). A portion of Tata/Muri-Pathankot Express was running between Hatia and Chandigarh and this was discontinued in view of less traffic on that portion and the need for more accommodation towards Amritsar. Therefore, there is no proposal to restore this service for the present.

[English]

Reduction in the Passenger Capacity

3129. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reduced the passenger capacity in Karala Express inspite of the heavy rush throughout the year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to restore the full original capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.